



Department of the Navy

Biographies

Tommy Ross

Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Research, Development and Acquisition (PTDO)

In May 2022, Mr. Tommy Ross began Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. From January 2021 to May 2022 Mr. Ross served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro.



Previously, he was Senior Director for Policy at BSA | The Software Alliance, an international trade association representing the world's leading software and data service companies. Responsible for policies relating to cyber security, 5G, and law enforcement access to digital evidence, he led development of BSA's *Framework for Secure Software*, a first-of-its-kind risk-based framework for evaluating security of software products and services.

Prior to joining BSA, he served as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security Cooperation, responsible for prioritizing Department of Defense bilateral and multilateral security cooperation activities and aligning security cooperation resources to the defense strategy. Under his leadership, the Department undertook historic reforms to its security cooperation enterprise, including a consolidation and reform of the Department's legislative authorities, the establishment of the first-ever security cooperation Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation (AM&E) framework, expansion and modernization of the Department's institutional capacity-building efforts, and the initiation and implementation of the Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative.

From 2009 to 2014, he served as Senior Intelligence and Defense Advisor to Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the Senate Majority Leader. In this capacity, he advised Senator Reid on national security matters, developed and implemented legislative strategies for all defense and intelligence legislative and policy initiatives in the Senate, and was responsible for all compartmented "Gang of 8" intelligence matters for the Majority Leader.

From 2005 to 2009, he served on the staff of Rep. David Price of North Carolina, first as Legislative Assistant and, subsequently as Legislative Director. He also staffed Representative Price's work as Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership, a congressional commission working to strengthen institutional capabilities of legislatures in developing democracies. Previously, he served as a policy analyst for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, where he supported the Democratic Caucus on national security policy and communications. He began his career as a research assistant for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

Tommy has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Mine Action Group America and as a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina, and holds an M.A. in Theology and Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has completed the Air Force's Air Command and Staff College as well as a Certificate in Africa Intelligence Studies at the National Intelligence University. Tommy and his wife Lindsay are the proud parents of daughter Ruby and son Sebastian.